



# Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Briefing prepared for ...

## Joint Executive Council for Veterans Affairs

August 5, 2015

# Agenda



- Cemeteries/Burial Honors
- Field Operations
- Nursing Facilities
- Homeless Program
- Women Veteran Program
- Commissioner
  - New Programs
  - 2015 Upcoming Events

# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West

Opened March 1, 2004

As August 2015

## Interments:

Veterans	2,245
Dependents	<u>794</u>
Total	3,039

Cremated	805
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KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY  
WEST



# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central

Opened June 1, 2007



As of August 2015

Interments:

Veterans	3,300
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Dependents	<u>736</u>
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Total	4,036
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Cremated	1,170
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**KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY**  
**CENTRAL**

# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North

Opened August 22, 2008



KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY  
NORTH

As of August 2015

Interments:

Veterans	905
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Dependents	<u>175</u>
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Total	1,080
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Cremated	397
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# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East

Opened October 1, 2010



KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY  
NORTHEAST

As of August 2015

Interments:

Veterans	444
Dependents	<u>85</u>
Total	529

Cremated	156
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# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East

As of: August 1, 2015

- Suitable parcel of land purchased by Leslie County.
- Proposals & surveys approved by VCGS (Washington, DC).
- Major improvements began October 2013 & near completion.
- Title scheduled to be deeded to the state in August 2015.
- VA Grant Award expected on October 1, 2015.



# Cemeteries Capitol Projects

## Expansion Grants for FY 2017

- ▶ **KVCW** – Construction of a second columbarium wall with an additional 1,000 niches for cremations. Projected use of 10 more years.

Estimated federal grant - \$625,000

- ▶ **KVCC** – Establishment of new burial sections creating an additional 3,500 in-ground plots. Also, the construction of a second columbarium wall with 800 additional niches for cremations. Projected use of 10 more years.

Estimated federal grant - \$4,471,000



# Burial Honors Stipend Program

As of: August 2015



## FY 15 Honors

- 2,564 performed
- \$144,739 expended

## FY 16 Honors

- 170 performed
- \$9,550 expended



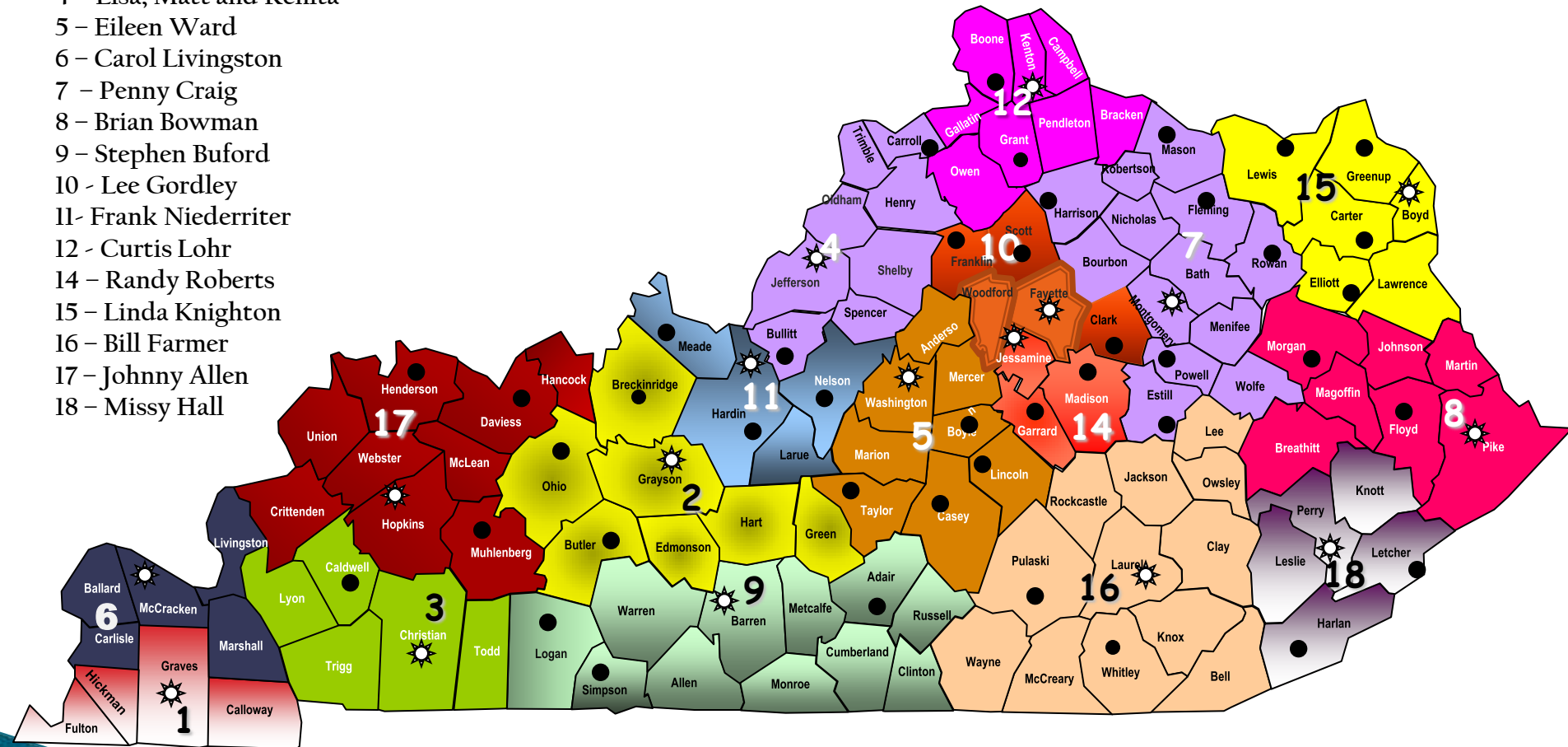
# Agenda



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# Field Representatives

- 1- Ron McClure
- 2 - Jenny Fisher
- 3 - Hope King
- 4 - Lisa, Matt and Renita
- 5 - Eileen Ward
- 6 - Carol Livingston
- 7 - Penny Craig
- 8 - Brian Bowman
- 9 - Stephen Buford
- 10 - Lee Gordley
- 11- Frank Niederriter
- 12 - Curtis Lohr
- 14 - Randy Roberts
- 15 - Linda Knighton
- 16 - Bill Farmer
- 17 - Johnny Allen
- 18 - Missy Hall



Denotes VBFR home office



Denotes VBFR Outstation

Effective August 1, 2015

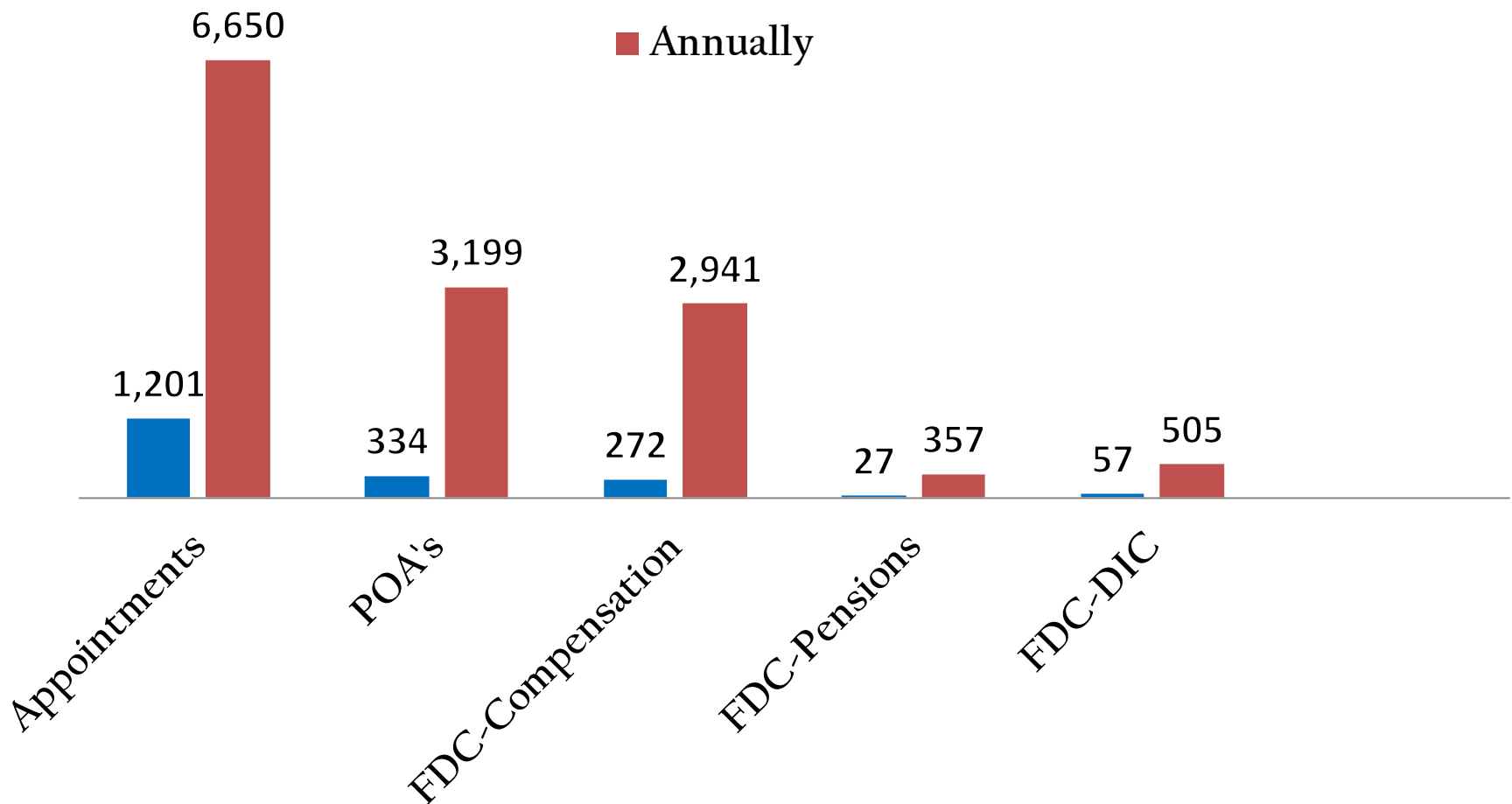


# Priority One Claims

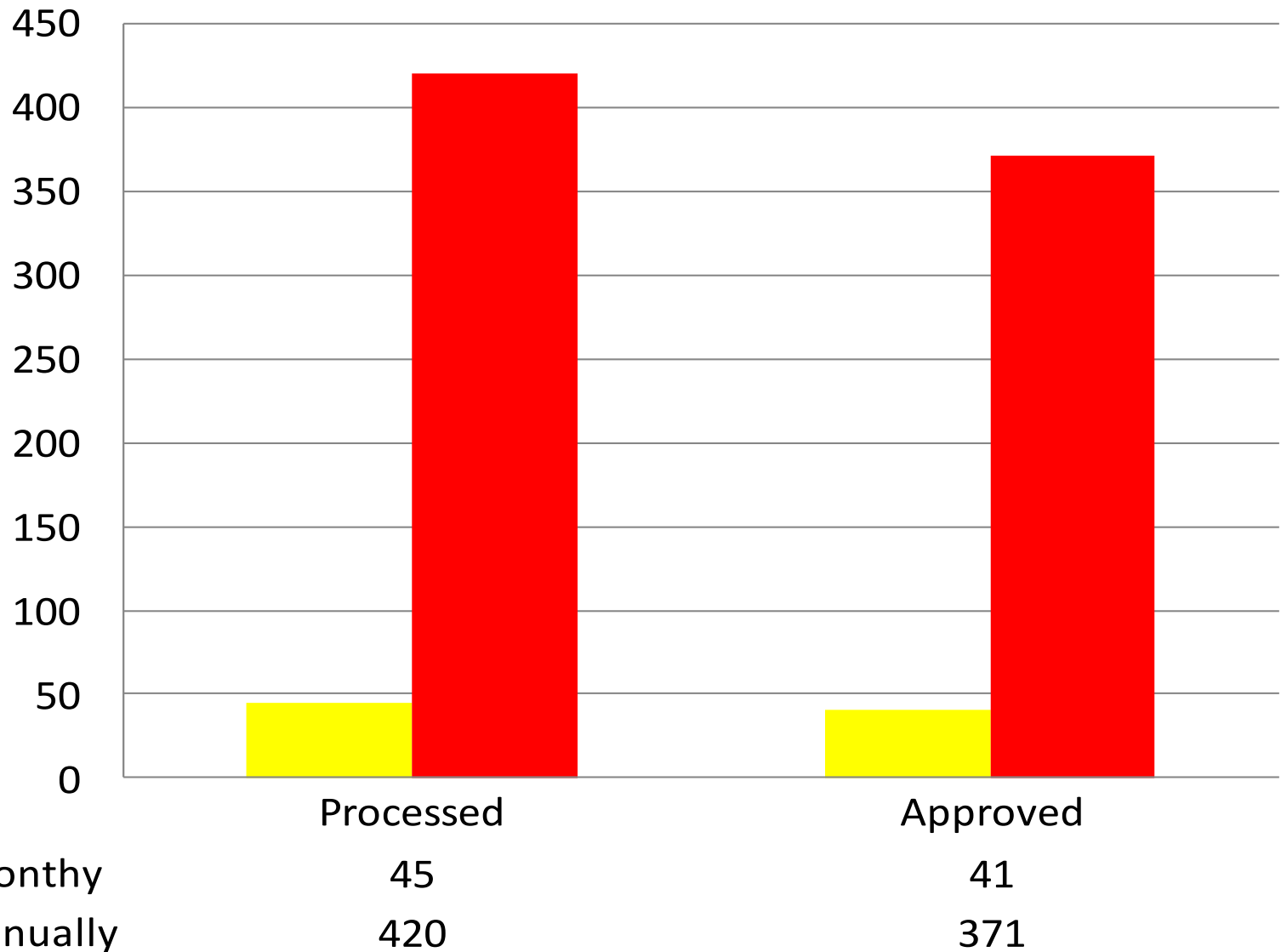
- Fully Developed Claims
  - Death Indemnity Claims
  - Hardship
  - Homeless
  - Terminal
- 

# Veterans Served by KDVA State FY2015

■ Average Monthly  
■ Annually




# KDVA Tuition Waivers 2015






# Digits-to-Digits (D2D)

- Digits to Digits (D2D) is a service that integrates a Veteran Service Organization's (VSO) claims management system directly to the VA for claims submissions.
  - Program development started with six states in the Pilot Program after less than three months into the program some states dropped from the program leaving the development to three remaining States and one VSO: Kentucky, Kansas, California and DAV.
  - D2D has completed testing for the Fully Developed Claims. KY was the first state to successfully electronically connect to the VA through D2D program and submitted claims starting Aug 1.
- 

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# Compensation, Pension & DIC

▶ Disability Recipients KDVA Represents	46,503
▶ Total Male Veterans	44,308
▶ Total Female Veterans	2,195

Retro Payments:	6.7 Million
▶ <u>Monthly Award:</u>	<u>2.8 Million</u>
▶ Total Amount:	\$9.5 Million (FY15)



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# Thomson-Hood Veterans Center Wilmore, KY



As of August 3, 2015

- 251 Residents in house
- Applications processed as they are received
- 92 Admissions since January 1, 2015 (160 in calendar year 2014)
- 91 discharges/deaths since January 1, 2015 (158 in calendar year 2014)
- 328 Employees
- Retired Army Major Ben Sweger, Facility Administrator



# Western Kentucky Veterans Center Hanson, KY



As of August 3, 2015

- 116 Residents in house
- 35 discharges/deaths since January 1, 2015 (44 in calendar year 2014)
- 39 admissions since January 1, 2015 (48 in calendar year 2014)
- Applications processed as received
- 186 Employees
- LaDonna Scott, Administrator

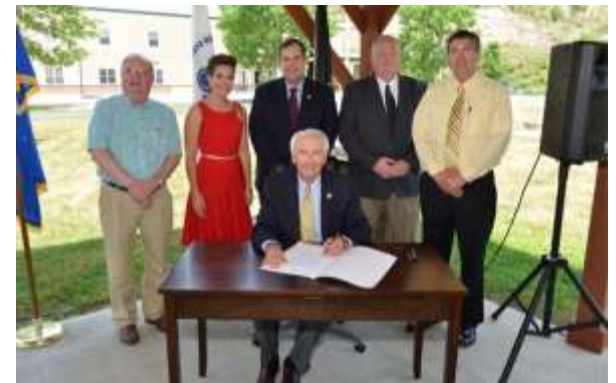


# Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center Hazard, KY



As of August 3, 2015

- 105 Residents in house, 166 Employees
- Processing Applications as they are received
- 49 Discharges/Deaths since January 1, 2015  
(60 in calendar year 2014)
- 46 Admissions since January 1, 2015  
(53 admissions in calendar year 2014)
- Neil Napier, Administrator







# SVHs Resident Demographics

*As of June 26, 2015*

CENSUS:	472 ( 89 available beds)
Free Meds:	170 (Pharmaceuticals)
70% SC:	90 (Eligible for VA NH care)
Residents with Spouses	166
Max Charge (\$3,700):	181
Zero Pay:	4
Ex-POWs:	4
Females:	15
Deaths to date:	226

# Radcliff Veterans Center - 120 beds

Expected completion date – Spring 2016

## ► Progress Report:

- 400 Neighborhood – trim work/finish work underway
- Israel Ray, Administrator hired and on site
- Job Fairs/Hiring – Late fall 2015
- Late October 2015 Ribbon Cutting TBD
- Applications for admission November 2015
- (contact Paul Hartless @ [paul.hartless@ky.gov](mailto:paul.hartless@ky.gov))





## **Tours Available upon request**

- American Legion National Commander Helm
- Director Emma Metcalf, Lexington VA
- Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs



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# Homeless Veterans - KY



- ▶ It is estimated that more than 600 Kentucky veterans are homeless
- ▶ Approximately 12% of homeless adults are veterans
- ▶ 51% of homeless veterans have disabilities
- ▶ 50% have serious mental illness
- ▶ 70% have substance abuse problems

**Trina Patty**

Homeless Veteran Coordinator

[Trina.patty@ky.gov](mailto:Trina.patty@ky.gov)

502-564-9203



# Homeless Veterans

- ▶ KVDA works closely with organizations such as HUD/VASH and the SSVF programs to quickly house and case manage homeless veterans once they are identified.
- ▶ KDVA screens all veterans for possible benefits for which they may be eligible including VA benefits, Social Security, healthcare, education assistance, employment assistance, and more

# Veterans Treatment and Transition

- ▶ There are several veteran treatment and transition programs in Kentucky. These facilities are grant per diem programs and work to help veterans overcome obstacles that may interfere with success once they are placed into permanent housing. Veterans may remain in these facilities for up to 2 years.
  - ❖ Louisville – 144 beds with 4 female beds and 2 family units
  - ❖ Lexington – 108 beds (male and female )
  - ❖ Hopkinsville – 50 beds (male only)
  - ❖ Pikeville – 27 beds (male only)

# Emergency Financial Assistance Homeless Veteran Trust Fund

- To provide a small once in lifetime assistance to qualifying veterans to obtain or maintain housing
- May not be other than honorably discharged, must be a Kentucky resident, meet income requirements, must show that without this assistance they will remain or become homeless, and must show that they will be able to sustain their housing or utilities in the future.



# Homeless Veteran Trust Fund FY 2015

- ▶ Homeless Veteran Trust Fund provided approximately \$87,000 to assist 367 veterans and their families.
- ▶ 191 veterans/families received rental assistance
- ▶ 176 veterans/families received utility assistance
- ▶ Asking to add this to KDVA Operating Budget in 2016 Session  
(Currently is funded through the Veterans Program Trust Fund)

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# Women Veterans Program

## Accomplishments:

- Highlighting various women veterans & issues monthly
- Connecting with Veterans Treatment Courts statewide
- Database complete-Currently has 2,232 women veterans
- Outreaching to various organizations to increase awareness of program i.e.(DAV national Headquarters, VAMCs, VFWs statewide, Center for women)
- Educating various homeless shelters about the need of space for women
- Identifying and enrolling women veterans in need of health care
- Continue to support performance improvement activities that benefit all women veterans

# KY Women Veterans UNITED! 2015 Calendar

Aug 8: Highway to healing-Athena sisters

Aug 15: Bowling Green Stand Down Event

August 23: Louisville, KY: State Fair

Aug 26: Women Equality Day- Athena Sisters

Sept: 16 & 17: CWT Job Fair

Sept 18: THVC-Ladies craft day

September 26: Lexington, KY: Honor Flight (3 Women Veterans on Board)

Oct 7: Louisville Stand Down Event

Oct 15: Lexington Stand Down Event

Oct 24: Make a difference –NABVets

October 26: National Day of Deployed: TBD

November 1: Paintsville, KY: Veterans Telethon

Nov 4-6: KY Counseling Association Conference

November 7-15: Louisville, KY: Week of Valor

November 11: Veterans Day

Nov 17: Women Veteran Meet & Greet Southwest regional library (tentatively-date may change)

Nov 17: Key Note speaker-Limestone DAR Chapter


November 18: KY History Center: Honoring Our Women Veterans Luncheon

December: TBD



# KY Women Veterans UNITED! Future Projects

## Future:

- All women veteran Honor Flight – Tri-state/ NKY
  - Women Advisory Committee established NLT 1 Nov
  - Women Veterans United Conference 2016
  - Establishing more regional women groups
  - Develop and provide education activities to continue to increase sensitivity and awareness of the unique needs of women veterans.
  - Increase utilization of women benefits and/or services & Identify gaps in women veterans benefits/services and develop new programs and services as needed
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# KDVA Youth Veterans Council

- 8 member council
- Grades 6-12

PURPOSE: THE KDVA YOUTH VETERANS COUNCIL IS AN ORGANIZATION CONSISTING OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERS, GRADES 6 THROUGH 12, HELPING KENTUCKY VETERANS, ASSISTING IN THE PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS, AND LEARNING ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTION OF VETERANS TO OUR NATION AND THIS COMMONWEALTH.

VOLUNTEER STATUS: ALL YOUTH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE UNPAID VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATE WITH THE PERMISSION OF THEIR PARENTS OR OF ANY GUARDIAN ASSIGNED TO THEIR CARE.





# Veterans Suicide Prevention

## KDVA & Ky Sheriff's

- Ky State Fair – Jefferson County Sheriff's booth – August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Ky Sheriff's Conference – Owensboro Sept. 15-17th
- Packages of 100 Veteran Specific Gunlocks for Sheriff's
- Free Veteran Gunlock Giveaways Statewide
- Establishing more regional connections for suicide prevention



# Tele-Mental Health

## KDVA, WKVC & Marion Illinois VA

- Expansion of services at WKVC
  - Medication Management
  - Anger Management Group Sessions
  - Individual Therapy
  - Substance Use Disorder Therapy
  - PTSD/ Sleep Group Sessions





# Vet Gogo – Ky Department of Transportation

## KDVA & Ky Department of Transportation

- The Vet Connection or “Vet Gogo” provides transportation services for Ky Veterans whose transportation needs cannot be met by the Veterans Transportation Network, Volunteer Transportation Services or Medicaid Transportation Services.
- Resource Line is 1-855-838-4646 (VET GOGO)
- Funded thru Veterans Program Trust Fund/ Rural Transit Dollars – we will be seeking to place this in the KDVA Operating budget for 2016 Session.
- Provided 3,526 Trips totaling 152,093 miles in over 85 Counties at a cost of \$122,000





# 2016 Preliminary Legislative Issues

- Admitting Veterans' Spouses to our Veterans Nursing Homes
- Operational Funding for Vet Gogo
- Operational Funding for Homeless Veterans Fund

# Upcoming Events & News

- ▶ Aug 8: Highway to healing-Athena sisters
- ▶ August 8: Military Appreciation Day at THVC
- ▶ Aug 15: Bowling Green Stand Down Event
- ▶ August 22,23,24<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Kentucky State Fair , Louisville, Kentucky w/ Prostate Cancer Screening
- ▶ August 23<sup>rd</sup>: Military Sunday at the Ky State Fair w/ NABVETS & Jefferson County Sheriff's Department
- ▶ Aug 26: Women Equality Day- Athena Sisters
- ▶ September 15 – 17<sup>th</sup>: Ky Sheriff's Convention in Owensboro – Gun locks
- ▶ Sept: 16 & 17: CWT Job Fair
- ▶ Sept 18: THVC-Ladies craft day
- ▶ September 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Hall of Fame, Frankfort, Kentucky
- ▶ September 25<sup>th</sup> – Lexington VA Mental Health Summit
- ▶ September 26 - Honor Flight, Lexington, Kentucky
- ▶ October 7 - JECVO, American Legion 113, Elizabethtown
- ▶ Oct 7: Louisville Stand Down Event
- ▶ Oct 15: Lexington Stand Down Event
- ▶ Oct 24: Make a difference –NABVets
- ▶ November 1 - Veterans Telethon, Paintsville, Kentucky
- ▶ Nov 4-6: KY Counseling Association Conference
- ▶ Nov 7-15: Week of valor
- ▶ November 11 - Veterans' Day
- ▶ Nov 17: Women Veteran Meet & Greet Southwest regional library (tentatively-date may change)
- ▶ November 18 - Honoring Our Women Veterans Luncheon Kentucky History Center



# Highlights Events & News

## The AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall – Lexington, Ky

